

## **Explanatory Notes to Translation**

1. Attached is an official translation of a law of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. It should not be considered an authoritative pronouncement of such law. The only authoritative pronouncement of such law is the version promulgated in the Lao language described at paragraph 2 below ("the applicable Lao version").
2. Each law is preceded by the Presidential Decree promulgating such law. Such decree states the date on which the applicable Lao version of such law was promulgated by the President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Each law also states, at the top right corner of the first page, the date the law was adopted by the National Assembly of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. These dates identify the version of a law translated. The Lao legislature amends and re-issues laws from time to time and, therefore, there can be several versions of a law. It is important to ascertain, from the dates of adoption and of promulgation, the version of the law that this document is a translation of.
3. Words describing institutions, titles and positions have been chosen on one of two bases. First, if a particular English word was commonly used in Laos to describe such institution, title or position, that English word has been used. Second, the translators attempted to choose a word describing an institution, title or position in English-speaking jurisdictions with similar characteristics. The reader should not assume, however, that the Lao institution, title or position is identical to the named counterpart.
4. The word "law" as used in this translation refers to the written laws of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The hierarchy of such written laws is set out in the Presidential Decree on Legislative Drafting, and includes the Constitution, laws, executive decrees and rules and regulations. The reader may assume that when the translation refers to "laws and regulations", the applicable Lao version intended to refer to the full range of written laws. However, where the translation merely refers to "laws", the reader should not assume that the omission of "regulations" in the applicable Lao version is intended to exclude rules and regulations. The reader should also note that references to implementing laws, rules and regulations may be inspirational and that such implementing laws may not yet have been promulgated.
5. In the attached translation, the following conventions apply:
  - (i) Square brackets indicate that the words enclosed within them are not in the applicable Lao version but have been added to conform to English sentence structures.
  - (ii) Footnotes have been used (sparingly) to explain certain translation decisions and are not part of the applicable Lao version.
  - (iii) Punctuation and list formats have generally been left unchanged (even where the result is somewhat awkward in English), except where it was clear to the translators that the addition or deletion had no impact on the meaning of the original. The translators have made every effort to retain the sentence structures and flow of ideas of the applicable Lao version but indicate shifts that have been made in the translation where it has been necessary to do so.